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Committee on Health

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Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee



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**Sponsor Testimony**  
**House Bill 134**  
**Ways and Means Committee**  
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Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Rogers, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 134, which would create a three-day sales tax “holiday” on the first Friday through Sunday of March during which sales of qualifying ENERGY STAR products are exempt from sales and use taxes.

Under HB 134, a “qualifying ENERGY STAR product” is any device that carries the ENERGY STAR label indicating that the device meets the energy efficiency criteria of the ENERGY STAR program established by the United States department of energy and the Environmental Protection Agency. This includes appliances such as washers, dryers, dish washers, freezers and refrigerators.

This bill will provide tax relief to Ohioans. These appliances tend to be larger ticket items that an average citizen purchases. Therefore, giving them the option to purchase an appliance tax free will provide them with tax relief. This is a tax cut for middle class families. Many people delay purchasing new appliances because of the price. This bill will give them the opportunity to buy the appliances they need. In addition, this bill will give a boost to retailers and manufacturers of these appliances in Ohio and support all of the jobs involved in the retail and manufacturing of these appliances. The back to school tax holiday on clothing items and school supplies has become very popular among our citizens. We believe this will become popular as well.

Ohio can join Texas, Maryland, Missouri and Virginia in having an energy saving holiday.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 134. I am happy to take any questions you may have.